

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants add claims 11-14 to further define the invention as discussed below. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 7 and 8 contain allowable subject matter. These claims have been rewritten into independent form to bring them into condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Roth et al. (3,977,907).

Claims 1-3, 6, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Iwaizono et al. (6,322,921).

Analysis

With respect to the rejection of claim 1 based on Roth, the Examiner maintains that the jack assembly 13 constitutes a single-head jack which includes a positive and negative terminal (82, 94). Specifically, the Office Action states that "Roth et al. teach a single-head jack (13) provided concavely in a battery body (14)"

However, in Roth et al., that which corresponds to a battery body described in the present claim 1 is an electrochemical cell 20. The Examiner regards a top closure 14 in Roth et al. as a battery body. As it is apparent from Fig. 1 of Roth et al, the top closure 14 is a cover of a container 10 in which the electrochemical cell 20 is included. Accordingly, the top closure does not correspond to a battery body described in the present claim 1.

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Among its many meanings, the term “body”, with respect to the field of the present invention, is defined as: The chief, central, or principal part or mass of anything. See, FUNK & WAGNALL’S New Standard Dictionary of the English Language, Funk & Wagnall’s Company, New York and London, 1940.

Thus, “a battery body” described in the present claim 1 is understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to be a “principal part” of the battery and does not include the parts which are connected around an electrochemical cell, and a container in which an electrochemical cell having a case is further included.

Moreover, in Fig. 1 of Roth et al., the electrochemical cell 20 must be connected through a complicated and troublesome arrangement. Accordingly, the present effects that the troublesome works for connecting can be simplified are not obtained in view of Roth et al. Therefore, it is apparent that “battery body” described in the present specification does not include “top closure 14” in Roth et al.

Furthermore, claim 1 now recites that “said positive terminal and said negative terminal are terminals for supplying power from said battery to an appliance using the battery”. However, “an integral jack assembly 13” described in Roth et al. is prepared for charging only, which is apparent because output terminals (corresponding to an output terminal 30 and 32) and a recharge jack (corresponding to an integral jack assembly 13) are clearly distinctively described in column 1, lines 44-51 of Roth et al.

Accordingly, Roth et al. does not disclose that “terminals for supplying power from said battery to an appliance using said battery” are a “single input-output terminal”.

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In view of the foregoing, claim 1 is patentable over Roth et al.

Claim 1 is also rejected as being anticipated by Iwaizono et al. However, in column 12, lines 9-17 of Iwaizono et al., it is clearly indicated that the minus terminal of the appliance is connected to the battery case 90 (not an inner cap 61). Accordingly, claim 1 is distinguishable from Iwaizono et al.

The remaining rejections are directed to the dependent claims. These claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 above, by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

Also, at page 3, the fourth line from the bottom in the Office Action, the Examiner asserts “[r]egarding claim 6, as shown in Figure 15, the terminal includes a first-polarity terminal (85) formed concavely in a tip of the terminal, while a portion of the second-polarity terminal (81) is arranged on the outside of the terminal”. However, the terminal (85) in Fig. 15 is “formed convexly” and not “formed concavely”. Moreover, the terminal (81) is not “outside” the terminal (85) and “inside” the terminal (85). Therefore, claim 6 is distinguishable for these additional reasons.

Finally, Applicant adds claims 11-14 to further define the invention. Claim 11 clarifies that the single input-output terminal is the one and only terminal for the battery. Claims 12-14 clarify that the single input-output terminal serves as an input and an output terminal. These claims are patentable for similar reasons to those discussed above regarding claim 1.


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Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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